

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 2158

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PINR, EC
SUBJECT: FADI: COMMUNIST PRESIDENTIAL TICKET

REF: QUITO 1752

1. THE BROAD LEFTIST FRONG (FADI), COMPOSED OF THE SOVIET-LINE ECUADOREAN COMMUNIST PARTY (PCE) AND THE CUBA-LINE ECUADOREAN REVOLUTIONARY SOCIALIST PARTY (PSRE) AND SEVERAL OTHER MARXIST ORGANIZATIONS, ON APRIL 1 NOMINATED RENE MAUGE AND ANIBAL MUNOZ AS THE ORGRNIZATION'S PRESIDENTIAL AND VICE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES RESPECTIVELY. THE FADI ANNOUNCEMENT FOLLOWS THE MARCH 17 NOMINATION OF CAMILO MENA, RECTOR OF QUITO'S CENTRAL UNIVERSITY, AS THE CANDIDATE OF THE CHINA-LEFT POPULAR DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT (MPD).

2. IT APPEARS THAT THE FADI MOVE WAS NECESSITATED BY THE MPD CANDIDACIES; THE SOVIET-LINE FADI COULD NOT PERMIT THE MPD TO CORNER THE VOTES OF THE EXTREME LEFT AND THUS DEMONSTRATE THE APPARENT WEAKNESS OF THE PCE.

3. THE MPD HAS ANNOUNCED ITS INTENTION TO QUALIFY AS A LEGAL PARTY UNDER THE ECUADOREAN ELECTIONS LAW AND CLAIMS IT HAS IN HAND THE REQUIRED 30,000 SIGNATURES. FADI,
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GIVEN THE MPD EXAMPLE, MAY CHOOSE TO DO THE SAME, THOUGH A SPOKESMAN HAS ALREADY PROVIDED AN EXCUSE, SAYING THAT TO FORMALIZE AFFILIATION THROUGH SIGNATURE PETITIONS WOULD BE TO INVITE SPECIFIC GOE REPRISALS AGAINST MEMBERS OF THE LEFT. IF FADI CHOOSES NOT TO ORGANIZE AS AN OFFICIAL PARTY, IT CAN RUN UNDER THE BANNER OF THE POPULAR DEMOCRATIC UNION PARTY, AN ALREADY LEGALLY ESTABLISHED PCE ELECTORAL

FRONT.

4. COMMENT: MAUGE IS A LONG-TIME MEMBER OF THE PCE AND IS A MEMBER OF THE PARTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. HE IS SAID TO BE CLOSE TO SECRETARY GENERAL PEDRO SAAD. MUNOZ IS A MEMBER OF THE PSRE. THE NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES FROM BOTH THOSE GROUPS INDICATES THAT THEY HAVE, AT LEAST FOR THE MOMENT, BEEN ABLE TO STOP RECENT SQUABBLING IN THE FACE OF THE ELECTORAL THREAT OF THE MPD. NEITHER MAUGE NOR MUNOZ IS WELL KNOWN TO THE PUBLIC.

5. IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT NEITHER FADI NOR THE MPD WILL DO WELL ELECTORALLY. BUT THE CAMPAIGNS WILL SHOW WHAT PROPORTION OF THE ELECTORATE IS CONTROLLED BY THE VARIOUS MARXIST GROUPS AND ALLOW A TEST OF STRENGTH BETWEEN THE SOVIET AND CHINESE FACTIONS. THE MPD, THROUGH HAVING PROVOKED THIS COMPETITION, HOPES THAT ELECTORAL SUPERIORITY OVER FADI WOULD HELP TO WREST THE LEADERSHIP OF THE REVOLUTIONARY LEFT FROM THE PCE.

6. THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR RECENTLY MENTIONED TO THE CHARGE THAT HE HAD BEEN TOLD BY SAAD THAT FADI HAD OFFERED THE NUMBER ONE SPOT ON THE TICKET TO RETIRED ADMIRAL GUSTAVO JARRIN AMPUDIA, FORMER MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES. JARRIN HAD REFUSED, SAYING THAT ACCORDING TO THE ELECTORAL LAW HE, AS A RETIRED

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MILITARY OFFICER, WOULD HAVE TO REQUEST PERMISSION FROM THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT. BELIEVING THAT SUCH PERMISSION WOULD BE DENIED, HE DECLINED THE NOMINATION. CORR

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